

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 03561	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/003494	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 novembre 2003 (25.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 décembre 2002 (13.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G02B 6/44		
Applicant FRANCE TELECOM		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 23 juin 2004 (23.06.2004)	Date of completion of this report 11 January 2005 (11.01.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International Application No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, 1-14, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, 1-12, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, 1/5-5/5, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims	1-12
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims	1-12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: FR-A-2 748 576 (CRESPEL DANIEL) 14 November 1997
(1997-11-14);

D2: US-B-6 484 958 1 (YANG DAN DAN ET AL)
26 November 2002 (2002-11-26).

1. The present application does not fulfil the requirements set forth in PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claim 1 does not comply with the requirement of novelty defined in PCT Article 33(2).
2. Document D1 describes (the references between parentheses apply to said document):

a device (see figures 8 and 9) for packaging and winding a cable, including a reel provided with two winding areas (figure 9, reference sign 9, at the top and bottom) for winding two continuous sections (2, 3) of a cable, and at least one storage area (the 4 areas referred to by reference sign 20) for storing at least one end of one of said two cable

sections, wherein said reel consists of a drum (10a, 10b) comprising two side flanges (see figure 8) and an inner flange that defines said two winding areas (reference sign 9, at the top and the bottom) and has an opening (figure 8 on the edges of said flanges) defining a path for said cable between said two winding areas, wherein said two side flanges have at least one notch (see figure 8, on the upper flange at the top) forming a path for each cable section from said storage area (9 at the top and the bottom) to the outside of said reel, and wherein said reel is rotatably mounted about an axis (page 5, paragraph 1) inside a substantially cylindrical casing (page 4, lines 14-15) in which openings (see figure 10) that form a path for each cable section (2, 3) are provided.

3. Dependent claims 2-12 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any one of the claims to which they refer, might define subject matter that fulfils the PCT requirements of novelty and/or inventive step.
 - 3.1 Document D2 discloses (see D2, figures 1, 4 and 5 as well as column 4, lines 5-38) that a cable can be wound onto a reel using a handle (the present application, claims 3 and 7) and/or a snap-coupling system (the present application, claims 9 and 10). The other dependent claims relate merely to alternative embodiments that a person skilled in the art would have used without having to exercise any inventive skill, if a problem had been discovered with this kind of device. The combination of documents D1 and D2 would also have been obvious to a person skilled in the art because both documents

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relate to windings of optical interconnect cables on reels.